



Wirral A C Newsletter

No 174 Mar 2010

Editor: L J Carroll

Borders Men Make It Four in a Row

Two successful sorties into Wales brought the Mens tally in the Borders League to four straight wins. At Abergele in February, Chris Cooper led them home in 6th, with Jon-Philip Seymour and Kelvin Dickinson also in the first ten. In the last race at Mold, Alan Woods came home 2nd with Chris (6th), Jon-Philip (8th), Kelvin (10th) and Mark Hulmston (11th) setting up a comfortable win with the aid of the other five counters. The Ladies came second in both races and have now slipped to second overall behind Tattenhall. Julie Webb (7th in both) and Sophie Hunt (8th and 10th) led them home, supported by Joanne Yorke (13th) and Jess Schofield (15th) at Abergele and Ali Lewis (17th) and Jane Fraser (26th) at Mold. We continue to lead the Veterans Division. With Prestatyn on April 11th and the race on the presentation night on April 28th to come, we appear set for the most successful season in the league since 2002-03.

The Senior Men qualified for the National 12 stage at Sutton Park in the Northern event at Wythenshawe Park. Xavier Desse gave the team a solid start on the first leg finishing in 24th in 24.50, but it was Alan Woods on stage 7 who put the team clearly among the qualifiers with 24.03. The usual nail biting ensued but at the tape we were 24th team (22nd club as Leeds and Salford had B teams ahead of us).

National Cross Country Round-up

Nearly forty members took part in the National Cross Country Championships in Roundhay Park, Leeds. The notorious Hill 60 was supplemented by unusually soft going for the venue, making the course an endurance test worthy of the occasion. With our Northern Cross Country Champion, Nick Jones, sidelined at the eleventh hour with a broken arm, the highlights of the trip were performances by the Tarver sisters, Hanna and Sophie.

Hanna kick-started her championship season by finishing 18th out of nearly 200 runners in the U17 race in her first year in the age group. This performance showed that she had recovered from the problems that had affected her running for several months and set her up for the Inter Counties (26th.) and the Inter Girls English Schools (17th).

In the U13 race, Sophie was just over 30 seconds behind the winner in 26th place in a field of more than 400. As she has another year in the age group, she could well be challenging the leaders in the 2011 Championships at Alton Towers. Behind Sophie, Eimear Corr, Aileen Kearney and Miriam Gordon made up the count for 43rd place.

The U13 Boys team turned out 10 runners in defence of the title but hopes of a high place evaporated when Niall Flanagan, who was looking to improve on his 8th place in the Northern, fell in the early stages and was unable to continue. James Taylor was first up in 125th with Wills Patterson and Broadbelt and Charlie Quinn finishing within the next 12 seconds for 20th place. The U15 Boys finished 23rd, led by a solid performance from Daniel Jarvis (84th). Phil Robertson was first up for the U17 Men who closed in 22nd place. The U15 Girls finished 36th led by Lauren Brett. In the Senior Women, Sarah Kearney was 244th in her first National, while Jon-Philip Seymour led a trio in the U20 with 103rd. In the Senior Mens event, a tight battle for the Sam Dodd trophy for the first Wirral runner home was won by Mark Hulmston from the improving Kelvin Dickinson. Nigel Pratten once again bailed out a team reduced by injuries and no-shows, ensuring we at least closed six runners, even if in a disappointing 64th place.



Goodbye now!

Sophie Tarver moving away to win the Northern Schools Wrens race in Woodbank Park, Mar 6th

Photo: Helen Tarver

Indoor News

Chris Smith made the final of the 800m in the BUCS Championships in Sheffield, finishing third in 1min 52.75sec with 0.6sec covering the first three at the line.

Jake Collins competed in the England U20 Indoor Championships in the National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, finishing 5th in his heat of the 60m in 7.38sec

Inter Counties Round-up

Thirteen members represented Merseyside in the Inter Counties at Cofton Park, Birmingham. The Tarver sisters impressed as the leading Merseysiders with 26th in the U17 and 37th in the U13. Niall Flanagan (67th) was second count for Merseyside in the U13, ahead of James Taylor and Will Patterson. Less than 15 seconds separated Jon-Philip Seymour (81st) and Shaun Egan (92nd) with both counting in the U20 team. Sarah and Emily Kearney made what must be a unique mother – daughter debut in the Senior and U15 races. Phil Robertson made the count in the U17 ahead of Ben Costello, while Sophie Hunt and Pippa Stott also counted for the U20 Women. In a thin day for Merseyside, the highest-team position was 11th by the U13 Girls.



Displaying their medals at the Wirral Primary Schools Year 6 races, from the left: Molly Thomson (2nd), Beth Foster (1st), Megan Duncan (3rd), Dominic Thomas (1st)

Photo: Graham Patterson

'100' Club Winners March

£12 Norman Waterson
£6 Paula Smith £3 Carol Tilley

Club Vests

The official stockists of club vests are:

Runners Sport & Leisurewear

66, Bebington Road, New Ferry.

Vests : £13 ; Green shorts : £10.

They will deal by mail – 0151 644 8384

Coming soon.....

Apr 2	Southport Good Friday Races	
Apr 3	Rivington Pike Fell race	Rivington 3pm including Merseyside Fell Champs
Apr 7	Chester Spring 5	
Apr 11	Borders League	Prestatyn
	Liverpool H Open Meet	Wavertree
Apr 17	EA 12/6 stage relay	Sutton Park
	LHAC Jumps/Throws	Wavertree
Apr 18	Cheshire League	Oval
Apr 21	Seaside run	Leasowe 7pm
Apr 24	NW Junior T&F Champs	Sports City for disabled and deaf athletes
Apr 25	Nat Junior League	Wigan
Apr 28	Borders League	Deestridders
	Wirral AC Schools T&F	Oval
May 1	Northern T&F League	Wigan
May 2	McCain YA League	Wigan
May 8	County T&F Champs	Wavertree
May 15	BMAF Road relays	Sutton Park
May 16	McCain YA League	Sports City
May 18	Walton Park 5	Liverpool
May 19	Seaside run	Leasowe 7pm
May 29/30	Northern U17/15 T&F	Leigh
May 30	Nat Junior League	Wavertree
Jun 5	Northern T&F League	Oval
Jun 9	Birkenhead Park Races	B'head Park
Jun 12	County Schools T&F	
Jun 20	McCain YA League	Oval

Athletic Shorts....

- ◆ Graham Ratcliffe took third place in the M55 age group in the British Masters Cross Country Champs in Belfast, sending a message to the English selectors for the 2010 Home Countries International later in the year. Peter Weatherhead also made the trip, finishing 13th in the same category.
- ◆ The Wirral AC Senior Mens Championship for the Charles Ledsome Cup was won by Alan Woods from Xavier Desse. Mark Hulmston snatched third place in a sprint finish with Kelvin Dickinson after trailing for most of the race. Graham Ratcliffe (5th) was the first veteran home from the field of 16. The Womens title went to Sarah Kearney with Jeanette Fox and Ali Lewis filling the minor placings.
- ◆ At the Northern Schools in Woodbank Park, Stockport, Sophie Tarver, Daniel Jarvis and Hanna Tarver won their age groups (Wrens, Colts and Swans for the animal lovers among you!). Nicole Haviland and Richard Evans won silver, while Anna Gordon, James Taylor and Jon-Philip Seymour took bronze.
- ◆ The series of 3 Short Courses race were won by Sophie Tarver and Jonney Clewitt (Yr 7) and Miriam Gordon and Chris White (Yr 8)